

**DR. E. C. MERRIHEW
DR. WALTER T. HASLER
WEBB'S JEWELRY
DALLEY'S JEWELRY
REAM'S WRANGLER SHOP**

Constructed: 1898-99

Address: 72 West Main

Present owner: Marian Ream

Until 1898 Lehi's entire Main Street commercial district was situated in the single block between First and Second West. Dr. E.C. Merrihew, a dentist, purchased property a block east in the fall of 1898. He began construction of a new eighteen-by-twenty-four-foot dental office at what is now 72 West Main. This property had originally been part of the Anders and Marna Peterson homestead. Swedish immigrants to Lehi in 1862, the family had built one of Lehi's earliest adobe homes on this site. The Peterson's son John sold the property in 1886 to Benjamin A. Powell. Mary A. Powell, in turn, sold to Eva Seabright in 1898. That very day Merrihew purchased the property from Mrs. Seabright, wife of a local physician.

Merrihew's new office, directly across the street from the New West School, and a few yards west of the still-standing Anders Peterson home, was solidly constructed. The bold brickwork strongly resembles the craftsmanship of masons Andrew Fjeld and Charles Ohran, who were the probable builders of this structure.

Merrihew was apparently well-trained for the day. His advertisements certainly imply that. One proclaimed his denture work, "in the best and latest styles." The devices were also guaranteed--"A fit or no pay." An adherent of the judicious use of nitrous oxide, "Dr. Merrihew is very careful in administering gas," stated another advertisement. A third, written by the dentist himself, colorfully shows us what state-of-the-art dentistry was like in

turn-of-the-century-Lehi. “Yes it is spring,” wrote Merrihew, “and you still hold to those old decayed teeth. You have headache, pain in your side, can’t eat and you want to knock down everything that comes in your way. I don’t blame you, for persons having bad teeth are sure to be bad themselves. Now is the time to have them out. Don’t go until another spring for if you do you may be layed away in a casket.”

Physician Walter T. Hasler, who built the unique home now occupied by the Tim Hunt family, purchased the medical building from Merrihew in 1907. In February of 1910 Hasler moved from town and sold the office to Ernest N. Webb, who since 1908 had maintained his jewelry store at Abe Gudmundsen’s old stand at 136 West Main.

Local boy Webb graduated from the Philadelphia College of Horology and Optics in 1907, receiving a “Doctor of Optics” degree. He later received a Doctor of Optometry degree from the Los Angeles Medical School of Ophthalmology and optometry. In addition to his optometry practice and jewelry work, he maintained a gift shop which carried a fine line of diamonds, watches, leather goods, fountain pens, silverware, and cut glass. During this time span most Lehi High School graduates purchased their high school rings from him. For a brief period in 1937, local beautician Alta Webb also maintained her shop in Webb’s Jewelry.

Webb maintained his place at 72 West for fifty-nine years--one of the longest continuous businesses in the history of Lehi. In 1969 Wesley and Geraldine Dalley leased the place when the elderly proprietor retired. In April 1973 Dalley’s moved into larger quarters at 98 West Main. The Webb building was subsequently leased by Jerry and LaPrele Anderson for Family Securities, a home storage business. Marian Ream bought both this building and Tom Powers’s store next door in January 1977 and converted them into Ream’s Wrangler Shop.

Ream’s, under Charlene Christensen’s management, today offers a large selection of western clothing, including hats and footgear.